

### **REMARKS**

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated August 27, 2002. Claims 3-12 were pending in the patent application before this amendment. New claim 13 - 76 have been added by this amendment. The new claims are supported by the originally filed specification. No new matter has been added. Entry of the new claims is respectfully requested.

This Amendment is being filed within three (3) month shortened statutory period. An extension of time is unnecessary.

A Terminal Disclaimer is attached hereto, along with the appropriate fee.

A copy of a Declaration Under 37 CFR§ 1.131, as filed in parent application USSN 09/104,297, is enclosed herewith.

Regarding the Examiner's notes about the dependency of claims 7 and 8, Applicants adopt the Examiner's assessment, whereby dependency of Claims 7 and 8 are from Claims 5 and 6, respectively, as originally claimed.

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 19-1995. A duplicate copy of this letter is enclosed for that purpose.

#### **I. Claim Rejections under 35 USC 112**

Claims 9, 3-8, 10-12 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph.

In conformity with the comments stated in the Office Action: (1) Claim 9 has been amended to provide proper antecedent basis for "local network", (2) Claim 3 has been amended to recite "a device link file" as suggested by the Examiner, (3) Claims 10-12 have been amended to make them dependent on Claim 9 as suggested by the Examiner.

It is respectfully submitted that the amendments to claims 9, 3, 10-12, overcome the rejection of Claims 9, 3-8, 10-12 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, and the rejections should be withdrawn. A marked-up version of the amended claims is enclosed herewith.

## **II. Double Patenting**

Claims 9, 3-8, 10-12 were further rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatenable over Claims 5 and 8 of USPN 6,198,479 to Humpleman et al. (hereinafter "Humpleman"). Applicants hereby file a terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) to overcome said obviousness-type double patenting rejection, as Humpleman (USPN 6,198,479) is commonly owned with this patent application.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 9, 3-8, 10-12 thereunder because the rejections are hereby rendered moot. However, if the terminal disclaimer fails to overcome the rejections, Applicants reserve the right to file a substantive response.

## **III. Claim Rejections under 35 USC 103(a)**

Claims 9, 3-4, 6, 8, 10-12, were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Corcoran, in view of USPN 5,956,487 to Venkatraman et al. (hereinafter "Venkatraman"). Rejection of the claims under 35 USC 103(a) is respectfully traversed because the claims include limitations not taught nor suggested by the references, alone or in combination.

Additionally, since Corcoran et al. is the main reference supporting the rejection, and Applicants provide an additional copy of the attached Declaration Under 37 CFR 1.131 to swear behind Corcoran et al., (which was previously filed in parent application USSN 09/104,297) in addition to the comments below to traverse the rejection, the rejections under 35 USC 103 are believed to be rendered moot, and Applicants respectfully request that it be withdrawn.

Regarding **Claim 9**, Applicants respectfully traverse the Office Action's assertion that Corcoran teaches the limitations of Applicants' claimed invention. Claim 9 includes the

limitation that clearly emphasize the novelty and unobviousness of Claim 9 over the cited references, alone or in combination.

As the Office on also confirms, Corcoran does not teach or suggest a list of network devices contained within a local network. The Office Action contends that Corcoran shows a method whereby a Network Browser displays four graphical buttons representing four devices from said list. However, in displaying the graphical object, Corcoran states that the user-interface for that device does not originate from the local system software and “instead it is loaded, as a HiPlet, from an HTTP-style universal resource locator (URL).” (Corcoran, P. 1065, section 3.3, second column).

Conversely, Applicants’ claimed invention allows at least local access to the button for controlling the desired device. Therefore, if the external network is not operating, or if the URL for the specific device is otherwise unavailable, Applicants’ claimed device button will still be displayed in an operable fashion. Whereas Corcoran’s graphical object would not function at all. Accordingly, Corcoran further does not teach or suggest the limitations of local access to graphical objects of the connected devices.

The Office Action then contends that Venkatraman teaches a self-contained home network comprising inter-communication links and a web browser enabling communication with a set of devices. However, as the amended Claim 9 clearly indicates, neither Corcoran nor Venkatraman, alone or in combination, teach or suggest “autonomously creating a device link page from at least the local network, wherein the device link page contains at least a device button that is currently connected to the network”.

Venkatraman is directed to a system wherein Web access functionality is embedded in a device to enable accessible user interface functions for the device. A web server in the device provides access to the user interface functions for the device through a device web page. A network interface in the device enables access to the web page by a web browser such that a user of the web browser accesses the user interface functions for the device through the web page.

(Abstract). Venkatraman does not provide a means that may locate and access the devices and autonomously (automatically) create a device link page.

Further, it is well settled that for a modification or combination of the prior art to be proper, the prior art itself must provide a suggestion thereof. Neither Corcoran nor Venkatraman suggests that the references be combined or modified in the manner proposed by the Office Action.

In addition, the Office Action acknowledges that Corcoran does not show Applicants' claimed limitation of associating a hyper-text link with the device button. However, the Office Action asserts that it would have been obvious to modify Corcoran to incorporate Applicants' claimed limitation. Applicants respectfully traverse the proposed modification of the reference.

For a modification of the prior art to be proper, the prior art itself must provide a suggestion for that modification. The Office Action states that because Corcoran suggests the use of HTML by disclosing the use of HTTP, URLs, and the name "Network Browser," that it would have been obvious to include hypertext linking to provide increased adaptability to Corcoran's disclosed system.

Applicants' respectfully traverse the Office Action's assertion of proposed suggestion by Corcoran. The HTML and URLs disclosed by Corcoran are internal components of the system that are required to download information from the device's homepage in order to make the device operable on the home network. Therefore, there would be no motivation for Corcoran to provide a separate hyper-text link as disclosed by Applicants claimed invention which would allow a user to access the HTML page of the device as the user desires.

Further, it would be necessary to make modifications not taught in or suggested by the prior art in order to combine the elements in the manner suggested. Corcoran mandates that the HTML page of the device be accessed in order to make the user-interface for that device functional on the network and would not need to provide a user the option of accessing the

HTML page of the device as desired.

The Office Action seems to recognize the advantages of the presently claimed invention by trying to make modifications in Corcoran to achieve the claimed invention. Applicants respectfully submit that the fact that the modification produces advantages in the increased adaptability to the device taught by Corcoran militates in favor of the patentability of Applicants' claimed invention because it proves that the combination produces new and unexpected results and hence is unobvious. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 9 because all of the elements of the claimed invention are neither disclosed nor rendered obvious, and because the proposed modifications of Corcoran, alone or in view of Vankatraman, are not suggested within the prior art.

Regarding **Claim 3**, the Office Action asserts that Corcoran shows the methods of Applicants' claimed invention. Applicants respectfully traverse this proposition and assert that since Claim 3 incorporates the novel and unobvious limitations of Claim 9, it is therefore allowable for its dependency due to the reasons set forth above in relation to the rejection of Claim 9, as well as for its own novel sub-features. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 3.

Regarding **Claim 4**, the Office Action asserts that Corcoran shows the implementation of a device GUI. Applicants' respectfully traverse the Office Actions' assertion and the rejection of Claim 4.

Applicants' claimed limitation requires retrieving a device ICON image from a home device, which is a limitation neither anticipated by nor rendered obvious from Corcoran. As discussed above in relation to Claim 9, Corcoran mandates that the user-interface for a device not originate from the local system, but be provided from the home page for the device via the Internet.

Applicants' Claim 4 allows the user-interface information to be retrieved from the device

at least locally in addition to external networks. Accordingly, Applicants' claimed invention provides assured and secure access to the user-interface on the local network and eliminates the possible failure of the external network and interrupted access to the device. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 4 because the limitations thereof are neither anticipated by nor rendered obvious from Corcoran.

Regarding **Claim 6**, Applicants incorporate herein the remarks above set forth as to the novelty and unobviousness of Claim 9, in furtherance of which, the Office action acknowledges that the user interface is loaded as a HiPlet from the HTTP-style URL of the device homepage. Conversely, Applicants' claimed invention allows the user interface for a specific device to be at least loaded from the local network.

Further, for a modification or combination of the prior art to be proper, the prior art itself must provide a suggestion therefore. Neither Corcoran nor Venkatraman suggests that the references be combined or modified in the manner proposed by the Office Action.

Venkatraman does not show all of the limitations of Applicants claimed invention. In fact, Venkatraman teaches away from Applicants' claimed invention by requiring that "A user of one of the computer systems 90-92 enters a URL corresponding to the desired one of the devices 10 and 50-52 into the corresponding web browser application." (Venkatraman, Column 7, lines 36-38). Conversely, Applicants' claimed invention provides for autonomously generating a device link page. Accordingly, even if the combination were legally justified, it would not teach all the limitations of Applicants claimed invention because the method of receiving a URL from a home device is admittedly not taught by Corcoran.

The Office Action seems to recognize the advantages of the presently claimed invention by trying to make modifications in Corcoran and Venkatraman to achieve the claimed invention. The Office Action admits that Applicants' method of providing of a URL associated with the device provides increased information selectivity. However, the Office Action then attempts to improperly combine Corcoran and Venkatraman to achieve the advantages thereof.

Applicants respectfully submit that the fact the modification produces admitted advantages militates in favor of the patentability of Applicants claimed invention because it proves that the combination produces new and unexpected results and hence is unobvious. In addition, because Corcoran mandates that the device information be directly downloaded from the home page of the device, there would be no motivation for providing a separate URL therefore. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 6 because the combination and modification of the references is improper and does not disclose all the limitations thereof.

Regarding **Claim 8**, Applicants incorporate herein the remarks above set forth as to the novelty and unobviousness of Claims 9, in furtherance of which, the Office action acknowledges that the user interface is loaded as a HiPlet from the HTTP-style URL of the devices homepage. Conversely, Applicants' claimed invention allows the user interface for a specific device to be at least loaded from the local network.

For a modification or combination of the prior art to be proper, the prior art itself must provide a suggestion therefore. Neither Corcoran nor Venkatraman suggests that the references be combined or modified as proposed by the Office Action. Venkatraman does not teach all the limitations of Applicants claimed invention. In fact, Venkatraman teaches away from Applicants' claimed invention by requiring that "A user of one of the computer systems 90-92 enters a URL corresponding to the desired one of the devices 10 and 50-52 into the corresponding web browser application." (Venkatraman, Column 7, lines 36-38).

Conversely, Applicants' claimed invention provides for determining the location and availability of the devices connected to the network in a dynamic fashion and building a device link page. Accordingly, even if the combination were legally justified, it would not teach all the limitations of Applicants claimed invention because the method of receiving a URL from a home device is admittedly not shown within Corcoran.

Finally, the Office Action seems to recognize the advantages of the presently claimed invention by trying to make modifications in Corcoran and Venkatraman to achieve the claimed invention. The Office Action admits that Applicants' method of providing of a URL from a properties file located on a home device allows itemized information gathering and provides increased space efficiency and attempts to improperly combine Corcoran and Venkatraman to achieve the advantages thereof.

Applicants respectfully submit that the fact the modification produces advantages in information gathering and storage space efficiency militates in favor of the patentability of Applicants claimed invention because it proves that the combination produces new and unexpected results and hence is unobvious. In addition, because Corcoran mandates that the device information be directly downloaded from the home page of the device, there would be no motivation for providing a separate URL therefore. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 8 because the combination and modification of the references is improper and does not disclose all the limitations thereof.

Regarding Claim 10, the Office Action asserts that Corcoran shows the method of Applicants' claimed invention. Applicants respectfully traverse this proposition and assert that since Claim 10 incorporates the novel and unobvious limitations of Claim 9, it is therefore allowable for its dependency due to the reasons set forth above in relation to the rejection of Claim 9, as well as for its own novel sub-features. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 10.

Regarding Claims 11-12, the Office Action asserts that the limitations of Web/HTML page on a browser display would have been obvious in view of Corcoran. Applicants respectfully traverse this proposition and assert that since Claims 11-12 incorporate the novel and unobvious limitations of Claim 9, it is therefore allowable for its dependency due to the reasons set forth above in relation to the rejection of Claim 9, as well as for its own novel sub-features. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 11-12.



**Claims 5, 7** were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Corcoran and Venkatraman as applied to Claim 9, and further in view of USPN 5,398,726 to Reber et al. (hereinafter “Reber”). Rejection of the claims under 35 USC 103(a) is respectfully traversed because the claims include limitations not taught or suggested by the references, alone or in combination.

Regarding **Claim 5**, the Office Action contends that Corcoran shows displaying the user interfaces of specific devices and that it can be combined with the disclosure of Reber to display a logo image. Applicants respectfully traverse the Office Action’s interpretation of the references and the combination thereof. Applicants incorporate herein the remarks set forth above as to the novelty and unobviousness of Claim 9.

As discussed above, the Office Action admits that the Corcoran user interface is loaded as a HiPlet from the HTTP-style URL of the devices homepage. Conversely, Applicants’ claimed invention allows the user interface for a specific device to be loaded from the local network.

For a modification or combination of the prior art to be proper, the prior art itself must provide a suggestion for the asserted modification. The Office Action states that because Corcoran uses an HTTP-style URL to download a user interface and Reber teaches a method of displaying a graphical logo relating to a device onto a browser screen, then it would have been obvious to combine the two references.

Applicants respectfully traverse the proposed combination and modification. Reber teaches advertising on a first web page by displaying a logo of a sponsor that is linked to the web page of the sponsor. Accordingly, because the user is already on the first web page, there would be no reason or motivation for Reber to provide a logo of the first web page that links to itself. Furthermore, because Corcoran already accesses the web page of the device to download information automatically, there would be no reason to provide a logo to do so. Therefore, because of the diverse functioning of Corcoran and Reber, there would be no motivation for the

combination thereof to provide a LOGO as claimed by Applicants.

Finally, the Office Action seems to recognize the advantages of the presently claimed invention by trying to make modifications in Corcoran and Reber to achieve the claimed invention. The Office Action acknowledges that Applicants' LOGO provides increased device recognition and attempts to improperly combine Corcoran and Reber to achieve the advantages thereof. Applicants respectfully submit that the fact the modification produces advantages in increasing device recognition by using a LOGO militates in favor of the patentability of Applicants claimed invention because it proves that the combination produces new and unexpected results and hence is unobvious. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 5 because the combination and modification of the references is improper and does not disclose all of the claimed limitations thereof.

Regarding **Claim 7**, the Office Action asserts that Corcoran shows the importance of a manufacturers' flexibility to change and adapt the user interface. Applicants respectfully traverse the asserted rejection and the Office Action's interpretation of Corcoran in this manner. Applicants incorporate the remarks above set forth as to the novelty and unobviousness of Claims 9 and 5 from which Claim 7 depends. Furthermore, Corcoran does not show storing the manufacturer device button in a user definable area of the device link page, a limitation of Applicants' claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 7.

Further, for the above reasons and other reasons, the references, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the limitations of the new claims added by this amendment.

#### **References Cited and Not Relied Upon**

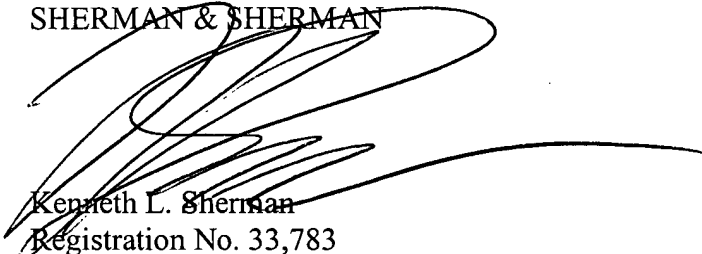
Applicants have reviewed the references cited and not relied upon and respectfully assert that the references neither teach nor render obvious Applicants' claimed invention.

### CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notification of the same is requested. If it is believed that a telephone interview will help further the prosecution of this case, Applicants respectfully request that the undersigned attorney be contacted at the listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

SHERMAN & SHERMAN



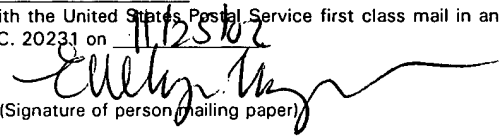
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### CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service first class mail in an envelope addressed to the: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231 on 11/25/02

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**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

9. (Amended) A method for providing an interface for accessing home devices that are currently connected to a local network, the method comprising the steps of:

autonomously creating a device link page from at least the local network, wherein the device link page contains at least a device button that is currently connected to the network;

associating a hyper-text link with each device button, wherein the hyper-text link provides a link to graphical or textual information that is contained in the device that is associated with the device button; and

displaying the device link page on a display device.

3. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the step of creating the device link page includes the steps of:

detecting a logical device name from [the] a device like file;

storing the logical device name in the device link page; and

converting the logical device name to a device button.

10. (Amended) The method of claim [1] 9, wherein said network is a home network.

11. (Amended) The method of claim [1] 9, wherein said graphical or textual information is a web page or an html page.

12. (Amended) The method of claim [1] 9, wherein said display device is a browser based display.

13. (New) A method for providing an interface for accessing devices that are currently connected to a home network, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) detecting devices that are currently connected to the home network, said devices having at least one controllable function;

(b) creating a menu for selecting said devices to activate said controllable function;

(c) displaying said menu on a browser based device.

14. (New) The method of claim 13, wherein said menu comprises a web page including at least one hypertext link to a web page contained within said device.

15. (New) The method of claim 13, wherein:

in step (b) creating the menu further includes the steps of: (i) creating a device link page from the home network, wherein the device link page includes at least a device control that is associated with a device that is detected in step (a), and (ii) associating a hypertext link with each device control, wherein the hypertext link provides a link to graphical to textual information that is contained in the detected device that is associated with the device control; and

in step (c) displaying said menu includes the steps of displaying said device link page.

16. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein said device link page comprises a web page or an html page including at least one hypertext link to a web page or an html page contained within said detected device.

17. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein in step (b)(ii) creating the device link page includes the steps of:

generating a device link file, wherein the device link file identifies the detected devices; and

creating the device link page including said device control associated with a device identified in the device link file.

18. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the step of generating the device link file includes the steps of:

associating a logical device name with the detected device; and

storing the logical device name in the device link file.

19. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the step of creating the device link page further includes the steps of:

- retrieving a logical device name from the device link file;
- storing the logical device name in the device link page; and
- converting the logical device name to a device control.

20. (New) The method of claim 19, wherein said device link page comprises a web page or an html page including at least one hypertext link to a web page or an html page contained within said detected device.

21. (New) The method of claim 13, wherein in step (a) detecting devices that are currently connected to the home network further comprises the steps of autonomously detecting devices that are currently connected to the home network.

22. (New) A method for providing an interface for accessing devices that are currently connected to a home network, the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) detecting an active state of devices that are currently connected to the home network, said devices having at least one controllable function;
- (b) creating a menu for selecting said devices to activate said controllable function;
- (c) displaying said menu on a browser based device.

23. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein in step (b) said menu comprises a web page including at least one hypertext link to a web page contained within said device.

24. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein:

- in step (b) creating the menu further includes the steps of: (i) creating a device link page from the home network, wherein the device link page includes at least a device control that is associated with a device that is detected in step (a), and (ii) associating a hypertext link with each device control, wherein the hypertext link provides a link to graphical to textual information that is contained in the detected device that is associated with the device control; and

in step (c) displaying said menu includes the steps of displaying said device link page.

25. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein said device link page comprises a web page or an html page including at least one hypertext link to a web page or an html page contained within said detected device.

26. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein in step (b)(ii), creating the device link page includes the steps of:

generating a device link file, wherein the device link file identifies the detected devices; and

creating the device link page including said device control associated with a device identified in the device link file.

27. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein generating the device link file includes the steps of:

associating a logical device name with the detected device; and

storing the logical device name in the device link file.

28. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the step of creating the device link page further includes the steps of:

retrieving a logical device name from the device link file;

storing the logical device name in the device link page; and

converting the logical device name to a device control.

29. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein said device link page comprises a web page or an html page including at least one hypertext link to a web page or an html page contained within said detected device.

30. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein in step (a) detecting an active status of devices that are currently connected to the home network further comprises the steps of

autonomously detecting an active status of devices that are currently connected to the home network.

31. (New) A home network system for providing an interface for accessing devices that are currently connected to a home network, comprising:

a detector that detects devices that are currently connected to the home network, said devices having at least one controllable function;

a menu generator for creating a menu for selecting said devices to activate said controllable function;

a browser for displaying said menu on a browser based device.

32. (New) The system of claim 31, wherein said menu comprises a web page including at least one hypertext link to a web page contained within said device.

33. (New) The system of claim 31, wherein:

the menu comprises a device link page such that the menu generator creates the device link page from the home network, the device link page including at least a device control that is associated with a device that is detected by the detector, and the menu generator further associates a hypertext link with each device control, wherein the hypertext link provides a link to graphical to textual information that is contained in the detected device that is associated with the device control; and

the browser displays said device link page on the browser based device.

34. (New) The system of claim 33, wherein said device link page comprises a web page or an html page including at least one hypertext link to a web page or an html page contained within said detected device.

35. (New) The system of claim 33, wherein the menu generator creates the device link page by: generating a device link file, wherein the device link file identifies the detected devices;



and then creating the device link page including said device control associated with a device identified in the device link file.

36. (New) The system of claim 35, wherein the menu generator creates the device link file by: associating a logical device name with the detected device; and storing the logical device name in the device link file.

37. (New) The system of claim 36, wherein the menu generator creates the device link page by: retrieving a logical device name from the device link file; storing the logical device name in the device link page; and converting the logical device name to a device control.

38. (New) The system of claim 37, wherein said device link page comprises a web page or an html page including at least one hypertext link to a web page or an html page contained within said detected device.

39. (New) The system of claim 31, wherein the detector autonomously detects devices that are currently connected to the home network.

40. (New) A home network system for providing an interface for accessing devices that are currently connected to a home network, the method comprising the steps of:

a detector that detects an active state of devices that are currently connected to the home network, said devices having at least one controllable function;

a menu generator that creates a menu for selecting said devices to activate said controllable function;

a browser that displays said menu on a browser based device.

41. (New) The system of claim 40, wherein said menu comprises a web page including at least one hypertext link to a web page contained within said device.

42. (New) The system of claim 40, wherein:

the menu comprises a device link page such that the menu generator creates the device link page, the device link page including at least a device control that is associated with a device that is detected by the detector, and the menu generator associates a hypertext link with each device control, wherein the hypertext link provides a link to graphical to textual information that is contained in the detected device that is associated with the device control; and  
the browser displays said device link page on the browser based device.

43. (New) The system of claim 42, wherein said device link page comprises a web page or an html page including at least one hypertext link to a web page or an html page contained within said detected device.

44. (New) The system of claim 42, wherein the menu generator creates the device link page by: generating a device link file, wherein the device link file identifies the detected devices; and creating the device link page including said device control associated with a device identified in the device link file.

45. (New) The system of claim 44, wherein the menu generator generates the device link file by: associating a logical device name with the detected device; and storing the logical device name in the device link file.

46. (New) The system of claim 45, wherein the menu generator creates the device link page by: retrieving a logical device name from the device link file; storing the logical device name in the device link page; and converting the logical device name to a device control.

47. (New) The system of claim 46, wherein said device link page comprises a web page or an html page including at least one hypertext link to a web page or an html page contained within said detected device.

48. (New) The system of claim 40, wherein the detector autonomously detects an active status of devices that are currently connected to the home network.

49. (New) A method for a server device to communicate with a client device in a home network, comprising the steps of:

(a) sending device characteristic data in response to a first request signal generated by said client device;

(b) receiving a second request signal requesting a web page contained within said server device, wherein said second request signal is generated in response to said device characteristic data; and

(c) sending said web page in response to said second request signal.

50. (New) The method of claim 49, wherein:

step (a) further includes the steps of sending said device characteristic data to the client device;

step (b) further includes the steps of the client device receiving said device characteristic data and generating said second request signal in response to said device characteristic data; and

step (c) further includes the steps of sending the web page to the client device in response to said second request signal.

51. (New) The method of claim 49, wherein the server device includes at least one controllable function.

52. (New) The method of claim 51, further comprising the steps of:

creating a menu for selecting said server device to activate said controllable function;  
and

displaying said menu on a browser based device.

53. (New) The method of claim 51, wherein said menu comprises a web page including at least one hypertext link to a web page contained within said server device.

54. (New) The method of claim 51, wherein:

the step of creating the menu further includes the steps of: (i) creating a device link page from the home network, wherein the device link page includes at least a device control that is associated with the server device, and (ii) associating a hypertext link with each device control, wherein the hypertext link provides a link to graphical to textual information that is contained in the server device that is associated with the device control; and

the steps of displaying said menu includes the steps of displaying said device link page.

55. (New) The method of claim 54, wherein said device link page comprises a web page or an html page including at least one hypertext link to a web page or an html page contained within said server device.

56. (New) The method of claim 54, wherein the step of creating the device link page includes the steps of:

generating a device link file, wherein the device link file identifies the server device; and

creating the device link page including said device control associated with the server device identified in the device link file.

57. (New) The method of claim 56, wherein the step of generating the device link file includes the steps of:

associating a logical device name with the server device; and  
storing the logical device name in the device link file.

58. (New) The method of claim 57, wherein the step of creating the device link page further includes the steps of:

retrieving a logical device name from the device link file;  
storing the logical device name in the device link page; and  
converting the logical device name to a device control.

59. (New) The method of claim 58, wherein said device link page comprises a web page or an html page including at least one hypertext link to a web page or an html page contained within said server device.

60. (New) The method of claim 51, further including the steps of detecting that the server device is currently connected to the network.

61. (New) The method of claim 51, further including the steps of detecting an active status of the server device currently connected to the network.

62. (New) A home network system comprising:  
a server device;  
a client device connected to the server device via a home network; and  
a control protocol for the server device to communicate with the client device by:  
    sending device characteristic data in response to a first request signal generated by said client device;  
    receiving a second request signal requesting a web page contained within said server device, wherein said second request signal is generated in response to said device characteristic data; and  
    sending said web page in response to said second request signal.

63. (New) The system of claim 62, wherein:  
the server device sends said device characteristic data to the client device;  
the client device receives said device characteristic data and generates said second request signal in response to said device characteristic data; and  
the server device sending the web page to the client device in response to said second request signal.

64. (New) The system of claim 62, wherein the server device includes at least one controllable function.

65. (New) The system of claim 64, further comprising:  
a menu generator for creating a menu for selecting said server device to activate said controllable function; and  
a browser displaying said menu on a browser based device.

66. (New) The system of claim 64, wherein said menu comprises a web page including at least one hypertext link to a web page contained within said server device.

67. (New) The system of claim 64, wherein:  
the menu comprises a device link page such that the menu generator creates the device link page from the home network, the device link page including at least a device control that is associated with the server device, and the menu generator associates a hypertext link with each device control, wherein the hypertext link provides a link to graphical to textual information that is contained in the server device that is associated with the device control; and  
the browser displays said device link page on a browser based device.

68. (New) The system of claim 67, wherein said device link page comprises a web page or an html page including at least one hypertext link to a web page or an html page contained within said server device.

69. (New) The system of claim 67, wherein the menu generator creates the device link page by: generating a device link file, wherein the device link file identifies the server device; and creating the device link page including said device control associated with the server device identified in the device link file.

70. (New) The system of claim 69, wherein the menu generator generates the device link page by: associating a logical device name with the server device; and storing the logical device name in the device link file.

71. (New) The system of claim 60, wherein the menu generator creates the device link page by: retrieving a logical device name from the device link file; storing the logical device name in the device link page; and converting the logical device name to a device control.

72. (New) The system of claim 71, wherein said device link page comprises a web page or an html page including at least one hypertext link to a web page or an html page contained within said server device.

73. (New) The system of claim 62, further including a detector for detecting the active status of devices currently connected to the home network.

74. (New) The system of claim 65, wherein the menu generator is a component of the client device.

75. (New) The system of claim 65, wherein the browser is a component of the client device.

76. (New) The system of claim 65, wherein the client device includes said browser based device.--